ROBERT KIRKMAN
CONOR HUGHES
PATRICIO DELPECHE
VOID RIVALS
Image
#23

ROBERT KIRKMAN
/WRITER/

CONOR HUGHES
/ARTIST/

PATRICIO DELPECHE
/COLORIST/

RUS WOOTON
/LETTERER/

LORENZO DE FELICI

CONOR HUGHES

MARTÍN MORAZZO & PATRICIO DELPECHE

ANDREA DE DOMINICIS

JOHN AMOR
/COVERS/

BEN ABERNATHY
/EDITOR/

ANDRES JUAREZ
/LOGO & PUBLICATION DESIGN/

ASHBY FLORENCE
/PRODUCTION/

/VOID RIVALS CREATED BY/
ROBERT KIRKMAN & LORENZO DE FELICI

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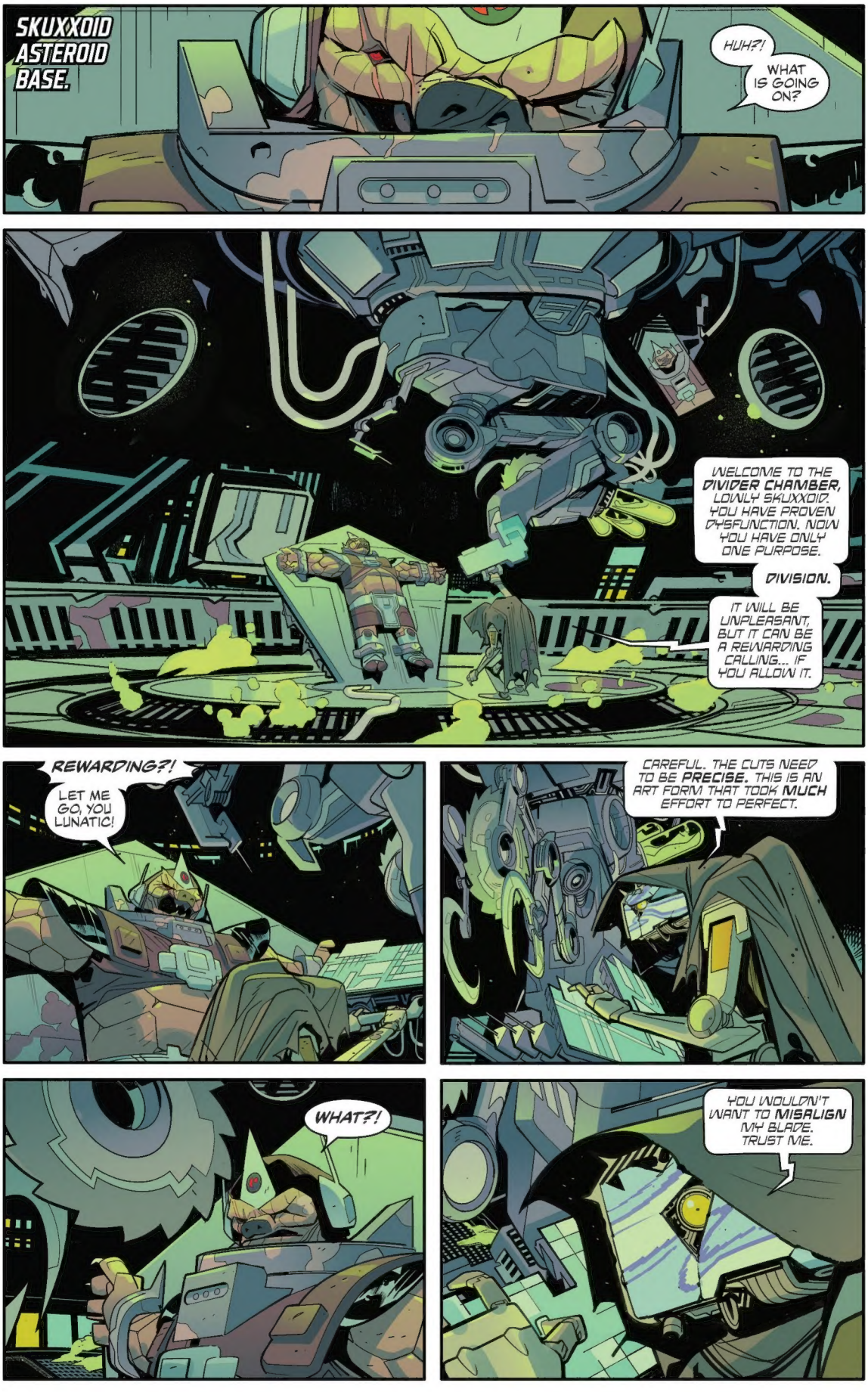
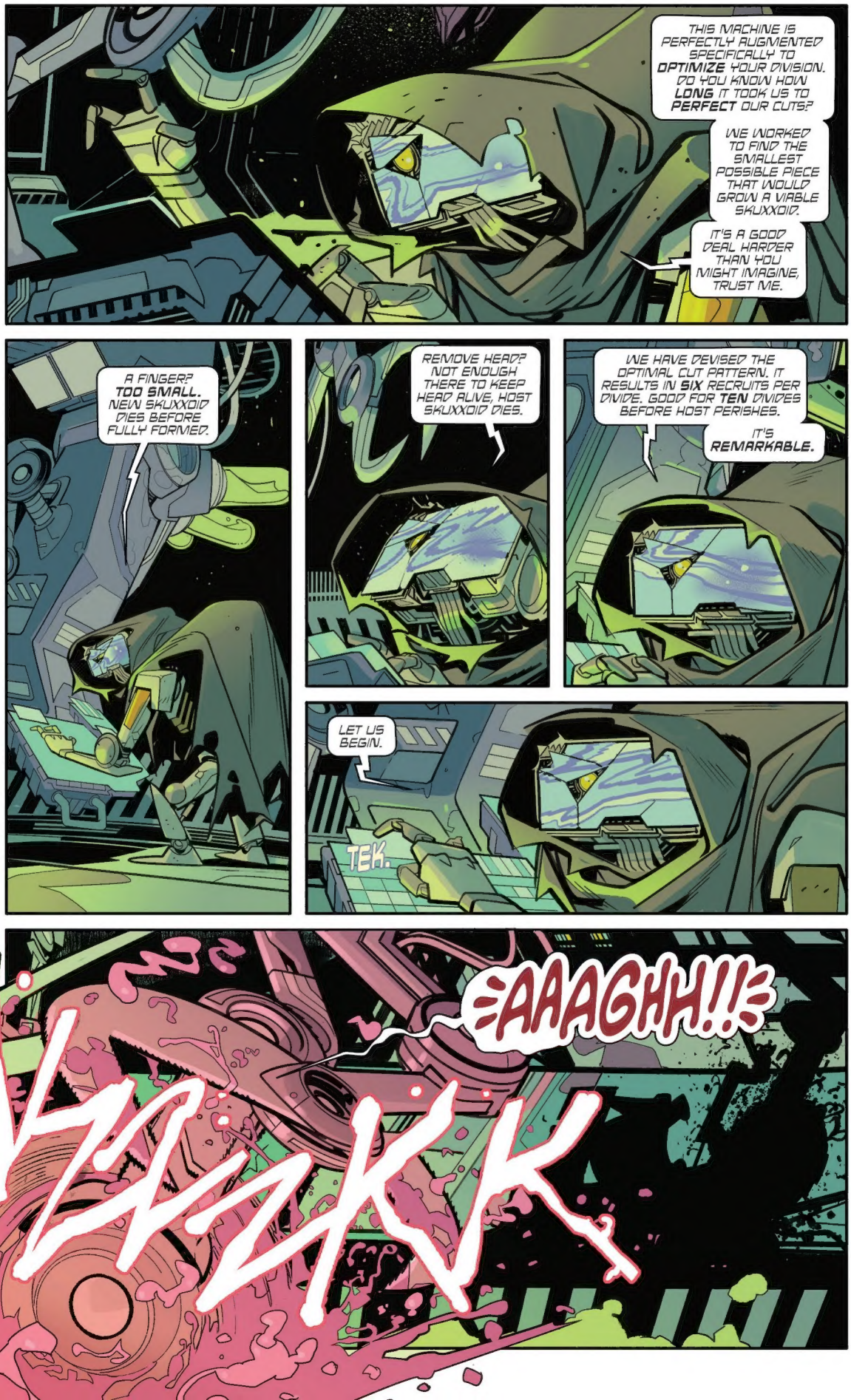
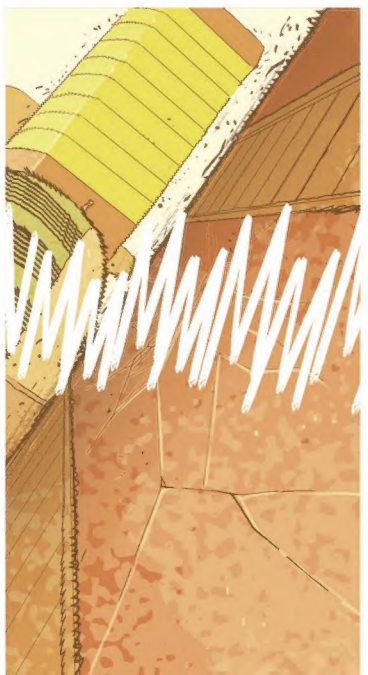

SKUXXOID ASTEROID BASE.
HUH?!
WHAT IS GOING ON?
WELCOME TO THE DIVIDER CHAMBER, LOWLY SKUXXOID. YOU HAVE PROVEN DYSFUNCTION. NOW YOU HAVE ONLY ONE PURPOSE.
DIVISION.
IT WILL BE UNPLEASANT, BUT IT CAN BE A REWARDING CALLING... IF YOU ALLOW IT.
REWARDING?!
LET ME GO, YOU LUNATIC!
CAREFUL. THE CUTS NEED TO BE PRECISE. THIS IS AN ART FORM THAT TOOK MUCH EFFORT TO PERFECT.
WHAT?!
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO MISALIGN MY BLADE. TRUST ME.


THIS MACHINE IS PERFECTLY AUGMENTED SPECIFICALLY TO OPTIMIZE YOUR DIVISION. DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG IT TOOK US TO PERFECT OUR CUTS?
WE WORKED TO FIND THE SMALLEST POSSIBLE PIECE THAT WOULD GROW A VIABLE SKUXXOID.
IT'S A GOOD DEAL HARDER THAN YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, TRUST ME.
A FINGER? TOO SMALL. NEW SKUXXOID DIES BEFORE FULLY FORMED.
REMOVE HEAD? NOT ENOUGH THERE TO KEEP HEAD ALIVE, HOST SKUXXOID DIES.
WE HAVE DEVISED THE OPTIMAL CUT PATTERN. IT RESULTS IN SIX RECRUITS PER DIVIDE. GOOD FOR TEN DIVIDES BEFORE HOST PERISHES.
IT'S REMARKABLE.
LET US BEGIN.
TEK.
AAAGHH!!
YAAKK

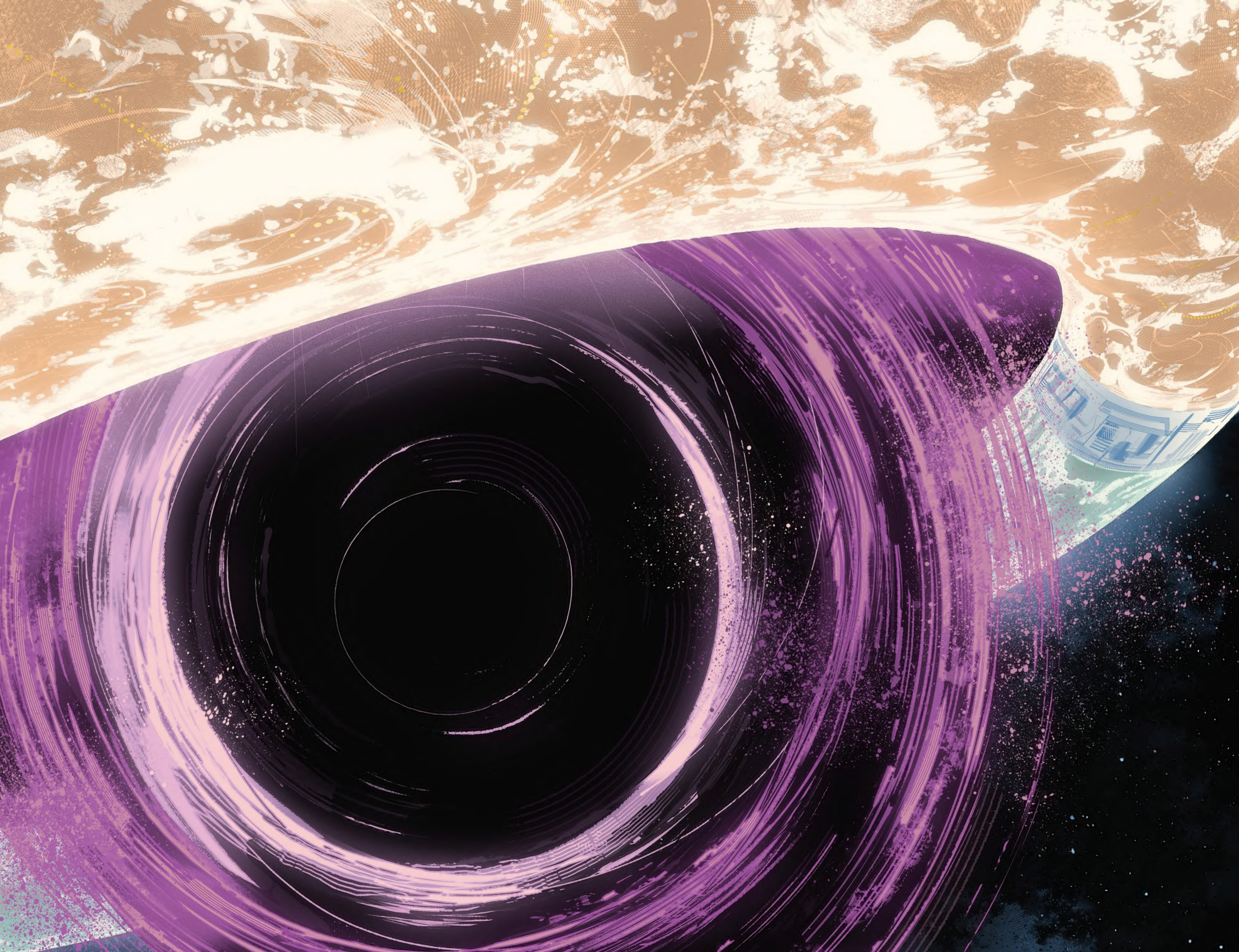
YES...
UNITY.
PRAISE, ZERTA.
IT'S GLORIOUS.

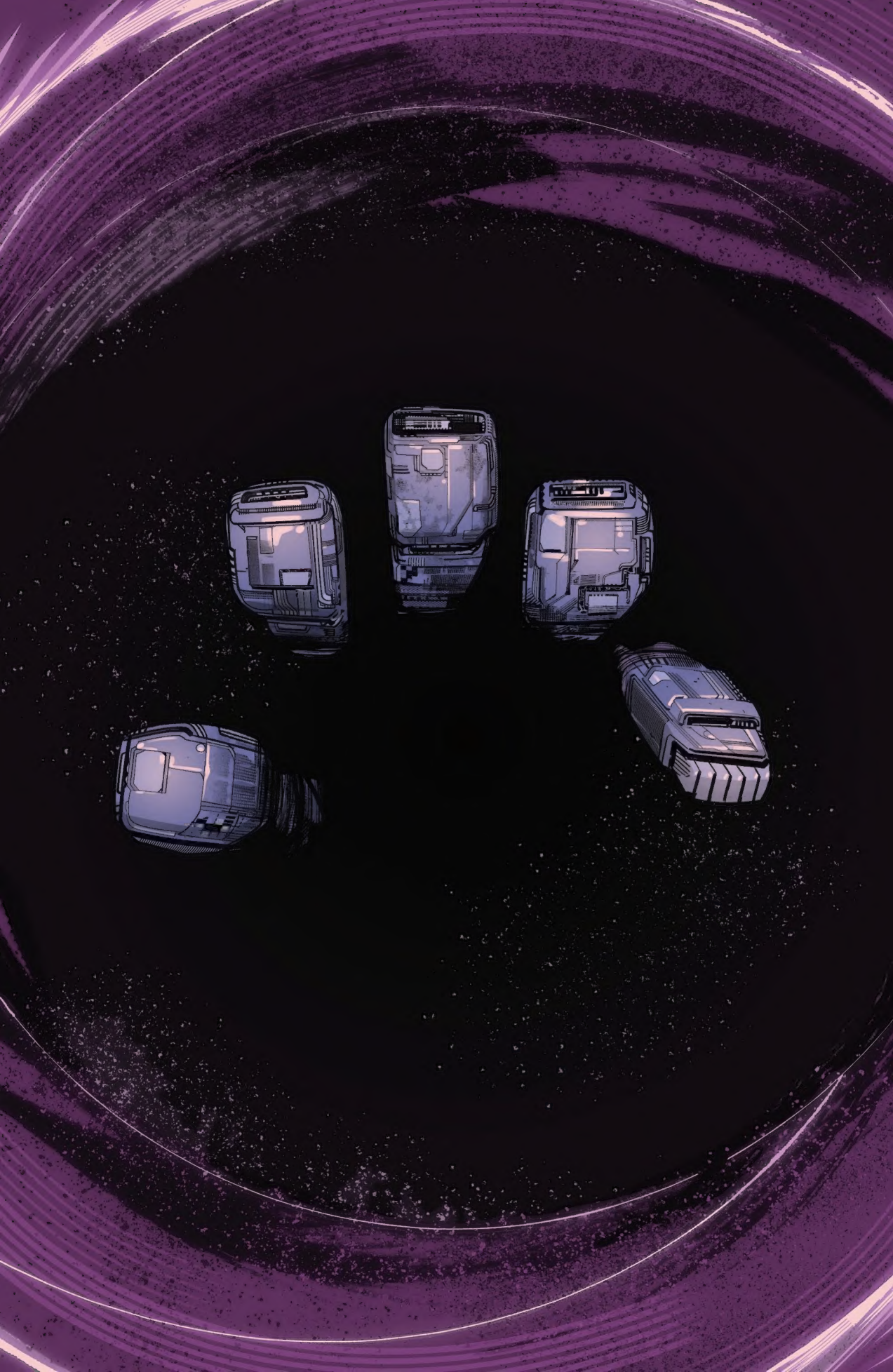
TRY NOT TO FALL ON THEM!
EASIER SAID THAN--

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
WHAT'S THAT-- SHAKING?!



AAGHH!!





QUINTESSA.

I DON'T LIKE LEAVING GRAKULA ALONE WITH THAT THING.
THAT THING IS HER ARMOR. IF SHE HAS NO FEAR FOR IT, I TRUST HER.
SHE IS LOST TO US. WITHOUT HER SECOND SKIN, SHE IS DEAD WEIGHT ON THIS MISSION.

PYTHONA!
YEAAGH!
SKRACKK!!

SLASH!
WHAT MANNER OF MECHANICAL ABOMINATION IS THIS?!

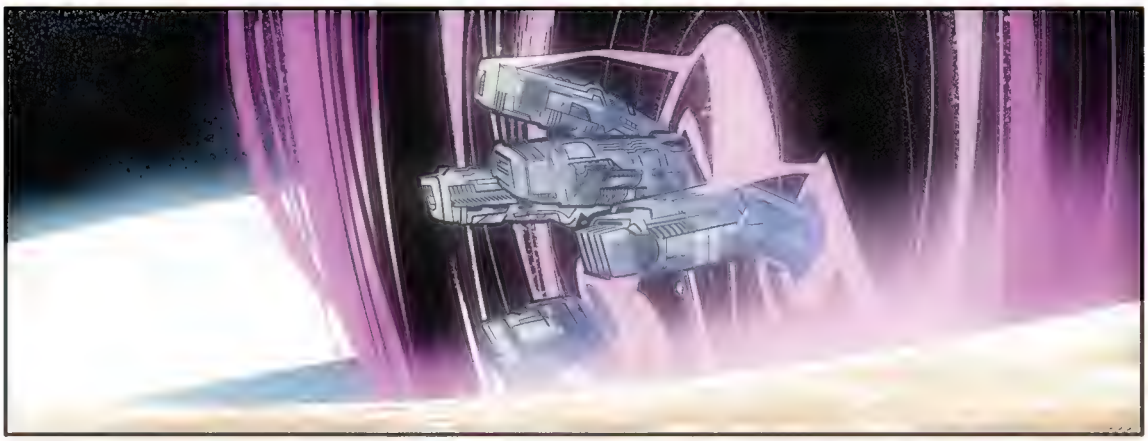
KLANK!
SKKEEEE!!
WHUDD
IF, ON THIS PLANET YOU WISH TO RESIDE, YOU WILL HAVE TO LEARN TO HIDE.
YOU--!
YOU BEAR THEIR MARK!
YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.

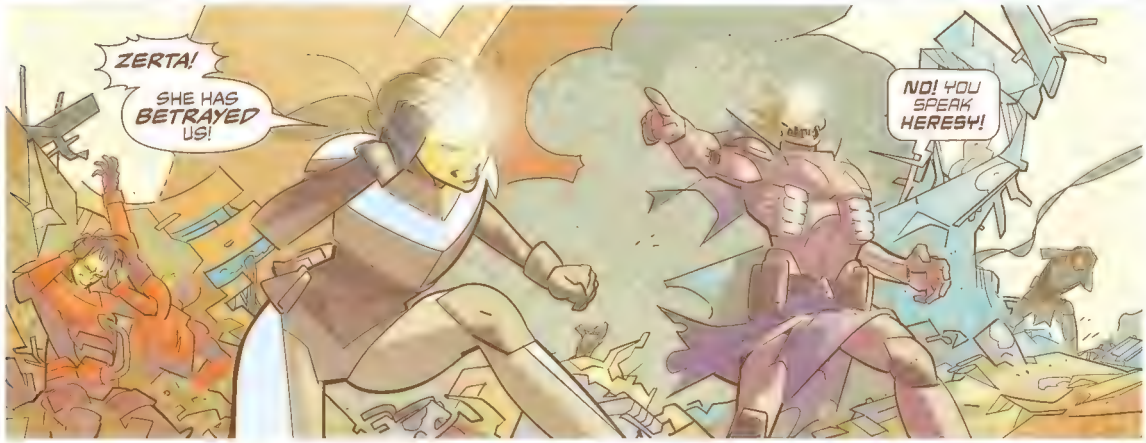
UGH.
WHAT NOW?
OH, MY. YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE CONSCIOUS YET. NOT IN THIS STATE.
REMARKABLE.
AND QUITE... UNFORTUNATE FOR YOU.
WHY DO I FEEL SO--

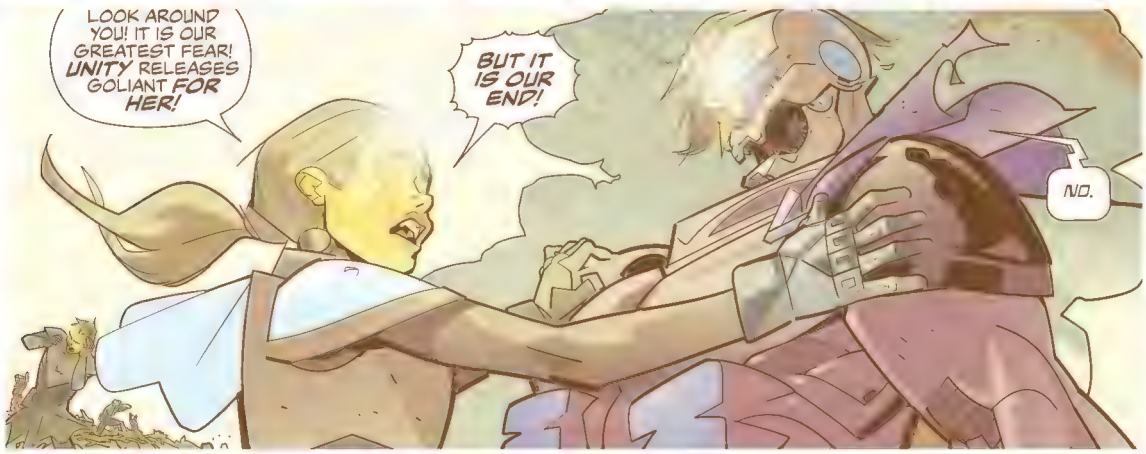
AAAGGHH!!
I USUALLY SLEEP THROUGH THIS! I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE! MY PARTS! ALL MY PARTS!
I'LL DISMANTLE YOU FOR THIS, YOU PSYCHOTIC BUCKET OF BOLTS! YOU'LL RUE THE DAY YOU CROSSED SKUXXOID!
AND TO THINK I WAS GOING TO OFFER YOU A SEDATIVE.
SHAME.

YES! UNITY!
AT LONG LAST!
KOOOMMBOOM
WHAT IS--
ZERTA, NO...
KRAGGK!
WHATEVER IS HAPPENING, IT'S TEARING THE SACRED RING APART!
KRA-CHOOM!!

KRAKKA-GOOM!



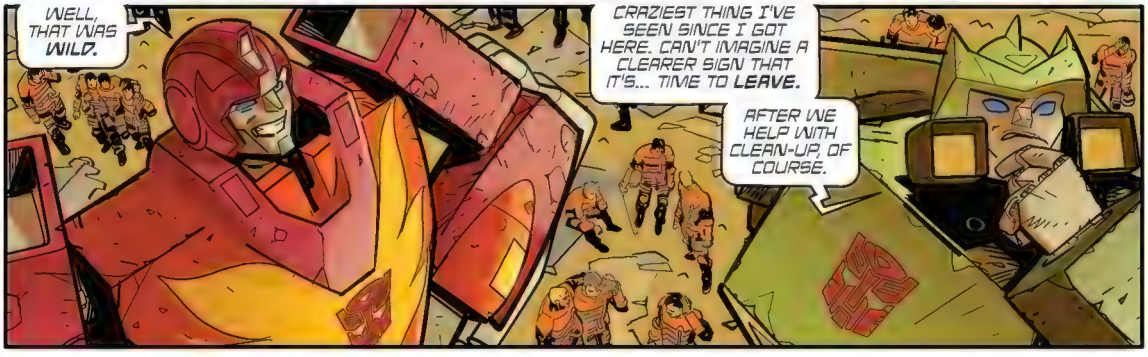

ZERTA!
SHE HAS BETRAYED US!
NO! YOU SPEAK HERESY!


LOOK AROUND YOU! IT IS OUR GREATEST FEAR! UNITY RELEASES GOLIANT FOR HER!
BUT IT IS OUR END!
NO.

NO! IT CANNOT BE! I KNOW SHE SPEAKS THE TRUTH!
I HAVE HEARD HER WORDS!
AS HAVE I, PROXIMUS!
LOOK AROUND YOU!
ZERTA'S WORDS ARE LIES!
IT--IT CANNOT BE! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
THE SACRED TEXT WAS THE WAY! THE WAY OF OUR PEOPLE! ZERTONIANS AND AGORRIANS! WE MUST STAY DIVIDED FOR OUR LIVES TO CONTINUE!
YOU MUST LEAD OUR PEOPLE AWAY BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!
PROXIMUS! YOU MUST RETREAT BEFORE OUR WORLD COLLAPSES AROUND US!

DEEP WITHIN THE SACRED RING.
NO!
NO!!
NOT WHEN I AM SO CLOSE!
SOLILA! TO ME!
AT ONCE!!
WRAM!!!

RETREAT!
FIGHT THROUGH THE PAIN AND RETREAT!!
AND JUST LIKE THAT... IT'S OVER.
...
LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THE AGORRIAN ARMY DEFENDED AGAINST A FULL FRONTAL ASSAULT FROM THE ZERTONIAN FORCES--AND IT HELD STRONG!
THE ZERTONIANS WERE DEFEATED!
YES, MINISTER DULIN!


WELL, THAT WAS WILD.
CRAZIEST THING I'VE SEEN SINCE I GOT HERE. CAN'T IMAGINE A CLEARER SIGN THAT IT'S... TIME TO LEAVE.
AFTER WE HELP WITH CLEAN-UP, OF COURSE.

OF COURSE.
MY WORD...

SUCH DEVASTATION... AND IT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING. I CAN'T BELIEVE MY FATHER WAS RIGHT.
THE ZERTA TRION OF LEGEND... WOULD NEVER BE A PARTY TO SUCH DESTRUCTION. I CAN'T IMAGINE THE FORCES AT PLAY HERE. IT'S A REAL MYSTERY.
WELL, IF I SPENT A FEW MILLENNIA TRAPPED ON THIS RING, I THINK I'D GO CRAZY!

WHAT? WHAT'D I SAY?
HEY! THE SQUADRON'S ALL HERE!
GAMUT, KRINT, MANZO, AND GARAD! SO RELIEVED YOU ALL MADE IT TO THE SURFACE WITHOUT CRASHING.
HEH.
NOT ALL OF US.
GARAD WILL NEED A NEW JUMP JET.
GARAD IS SORRY.
OH, DON'T SWEAT IT, BIG GUY! MINE'S SO DINGED UP, I'LL PROBABLY NEED A NEW ONE, TOO!
HAS ANYONE SEEN SOLILA?
WHO'S SOLILA?

YOU HAVE FAILED ME, CHILD. I KNEW YOU WERE SMALL AND LIVED A LIFE OF SMALL WAYS.
YOU BELIEVE I HAD DOOMED YOUR PEOPLE. I PUT TOO MUCH FAITH IN YOU. I BELIEVED YOU POSSESSED TRUE WISDOM.
I'M SORRY, SOULA. IT IS YOU WHO HAS DOOMED YOUR PEOPLE... ALONG WITH SO MANY OTHERS FROM COUNTLESS WORLDS.
YOUR ACTIONS THREATEN THE END OF ALL LIFE AS WE KNOW IT!

TALK TO THE HANDROID

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO VOIDRIVALS@SKYBOUND.COM

NO! This time I start the letters column! This is Robert Kirkman taking the opening paragraph this month to say, "Stop being lazy, dear reader!" These letters columns are a real pain in the butt to do. They take way more time than they should and they're the definition of a thankless job. But...I love them, and I'm pretty sure if you're reading this, you love them too. I just can't stand when a comic just ends with the final page, it just seems...unnatural to me. I want to hear from the creative team, or editorial, or someone telling me how things are going, updating me on the status of the book or answering reader questions! Well, we can't do that if you don't write in. Maybe it's the social media era and this is a bygone product of yesterday, but I've never had a book selling this well, getting so few letters. We're nearing our 25th issue and this book is still burning up the sales charts and going strong, but we're not getting a lot of mail. So, if you've ever wanted to have a letter printed, now is your chance! Ask us questions, give us constructive criticism, point out a mistake we made. It's all in good fun! We'll respond and we'll all have a great time.

The Handroid is here, ready and waiting to listen! Talk to it! Okay, Ben, take it away!

Thank you, Robert! We hope you enjoyed the latest thrilling issue of our epic series which really serves as the appetizer for the main course--TALK TO THE HANDROID! Like the boss said, keep those letters coming!

Hey! What an issue, right? Unity? Holy crap that did NOT seem like a good thing, did it?! It's so fun to look back on the humble beginnings of this series and look at where we are with issue 23. So much has changed, so many little threads are finally paying off--and look, what's that on the horizon?! THE QUINTESSON WAR?! Holy heck! That's going to be nuts! Exciting times lie ahead--speaking of which, let's dive into the mail!

. . . . . .

Greetings Void Rivals Team!

Felt compelled to write to you all, after reading issue #21 (Conor's Variant B cover is majestic!).

Long story short, I've been adapting one of my screenplays into a comic series (think Bladerunner meets Kill Bill) & what was initially research at my local comic book store, became a renewed LOVE for comics the past 6 months. I bought all 3 TP's of Void Rivals & Transformers & now I am officially up to date with everything going on with both runs. What a world built! Such iconic characters, new and old (with a fresh creative / humanistic take). Page 7, Panel 5 literally had my jaw dropped & immediately gave me Darth Vader vibes with Proximus' helmet being ripped from his face. Also, page 11 was brilliant and a touching moment between our two beloved characters. Even in the heat of the moment, Solila & Darak's chemistry exudes on the page. Even if they are just talking about Handroids, the unspoken love they have for each other is there, front & center. So beautiful. You guys are so inspiring, keep CRUSHING it!

All the best,

Trifon
Junkion...I mean New Jersey!

Thank you for writing in, Trifon! I'm so glad a research visit to your local comic shop resulted in you jumping headfirst into the Energon Universe (although you should really try our third title, G.I. JOE)! And you've zeroed in on my favorite aspects of the series--that chemistry between Darak and Solila. They're a powerful duo and I'm glad we finally have them together again!

Well, after the end of this issue, that reunion could have been...short lived!

• • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Dear Handroid,

Well, since I'm still keeping up with this series as I have since the beginning, I thought I'd drop a line about issue 21. It was a pretty cool issue. I guess my favorite part was the battle royale between...err...amongst all the Skuxxoidises...and then we find out there's an older Grandpa Skuxxoid who sits on a throne of sorts! Awesome! Anyway, I forgot who the guy is that defeated Proximus in this issue, but he certainly is a badass. The triangular stand-off between Solila, Darak, and Darak's father was also interesting. And then we get the Unification Attack! Perhaps, MOST interesting insight we got this issue is that two Handroids switched owners, the red went back to Darak and blue to Solila. Which leads to another question: are there OTHER colors of Handroids? Or are these two just special and the other Handroids are just metallic-colored?

Alan Bowman
Sagamihara City, Japan

Always great to hear from you Alan and I think you should go back and look at #21 to answer your question--Darak's fighter squadron ALL had different colored Handroids on!

Also, I don't remember which issue, but when Darak got his blue handroid you got to see a drawer of all different colored Handroids. So, I'd wager there's a Handroid for every color of the rainbow. Eventually, we'll meet them all!

• • • • • • • • • • • • • •

And that's a wrap for this month, folks. LOTS of cool stuff happening in the E.U. this month that I recommend you check out--like the end of Daniel Warren Johnson's senses shattering run with TRANSFORMERS #24. And over in G.I. JOE #11, Joshua Williamson and Andrea Milana wrap up their Baroness vs Major Bludd arc and like Robert said, send us some letters, we want to hear from everyone!

See ya in 30 for the stunning end of the arc!

-Ben

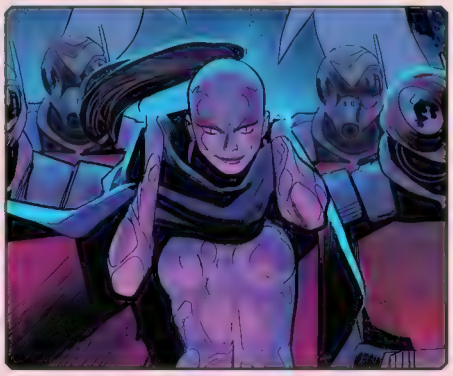
Yeah, bombard us with letters! Let's keep this letters column well-stocked! See you all back here in 30!

-Robert

ENERGON EXPERIENCE

VOID RIVALS IS A ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCE WHERE THE WORLDS OF G.I. JOE, TRANSFORMERS AND THE SACRED RING ALL COLLIDE. I MEAN, WHO WOULD'VE EVER EXPECTED A WHEELIE AND PYTHONA CROSSOVER...OR ONE THAT WOULD MAKE US SMILE SO MUCH? AND NOW...THE QUNTESSON WAR IS ALMOST HERE!

-ARUNE SINGH, VP, BRAND



CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT

WHO: Pythona

WHERE: A denizen of Cobra-La she serves as an assassin and enforcer for Golobulus.

WHAT: Pythona and her contingent of guardsmen were sent by Golobulus to search for Cybertron...to learn more about the Transformers and their weaknesses. But they've found their way to Quintessa instead...

WHEELIE RETURNS!

The small but passionate Wheelie fanbase will be SO pleased! It's been a few months since we've seen him and his trusty slingshot...in fact, this is his first appearance since May's Energon Universe Special where we last saw him rescuing bots from the Quintessons. Could he be recruiting for a bigger plan...?

CREATOR SPOTLIGHT

Q: Robert Kirkman, with Daniel Warren Johnson's epic TRANSFORMERS run coming to an end this month, what's your favorite memory from his time on the title?

A: It's hard to pinpoint things to one single moment in that run. There's so much greatness. I loved Beachcomber's story, his time spent on the moon. I think Shockwave's actions involving the sea life was fantastic, and we'll all remember where we were when we first read the deer scene. But for me, it's all the way back to issue one and Carly and Spike struggling to PUSH Optimus Prime's gun to him in that initial fight. That was the first moment where I realized we were really getting something special. I'd just have to look past all the wrestling moves to see it!

THE ENERGON UNIVERSE CHECKLIST

- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #24 AVAILABLE 9/10
- ☐ G.I. JOE #11 AVAILABLE 9/17
- ☐ VOID RIVALS #23 AVAILABLE 9/24

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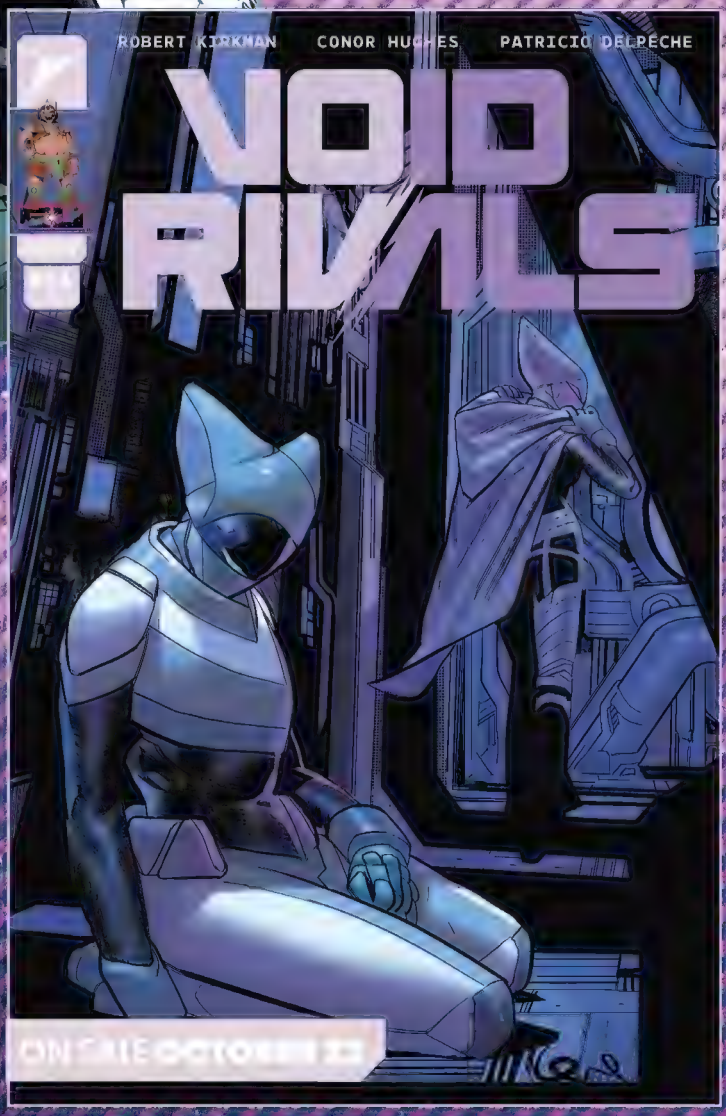
JOSHUA WILLIAMSON MARCO FODERA LEE LOUGHRIDGE
G.I. JOE
ON SALE OCTOBER 15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VOID RIVALS

ROBERT KIRKMAN AND DAN MORA BEGIN A NEW ERA

OVERSIZED

TRANSFORMERS

#25

THE

ENERGON UNIVERSE

CHANGES OCTOBER 2025

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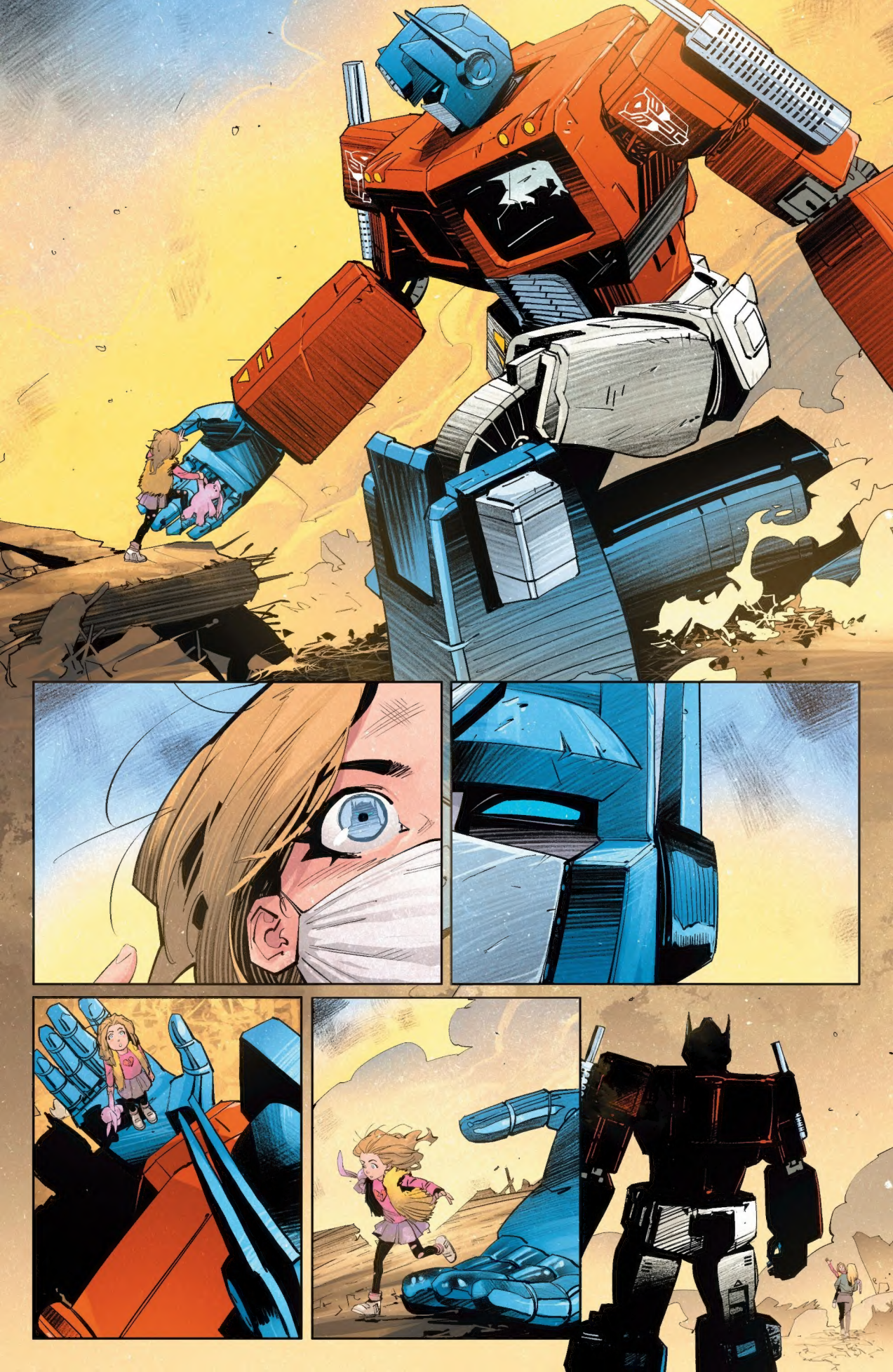

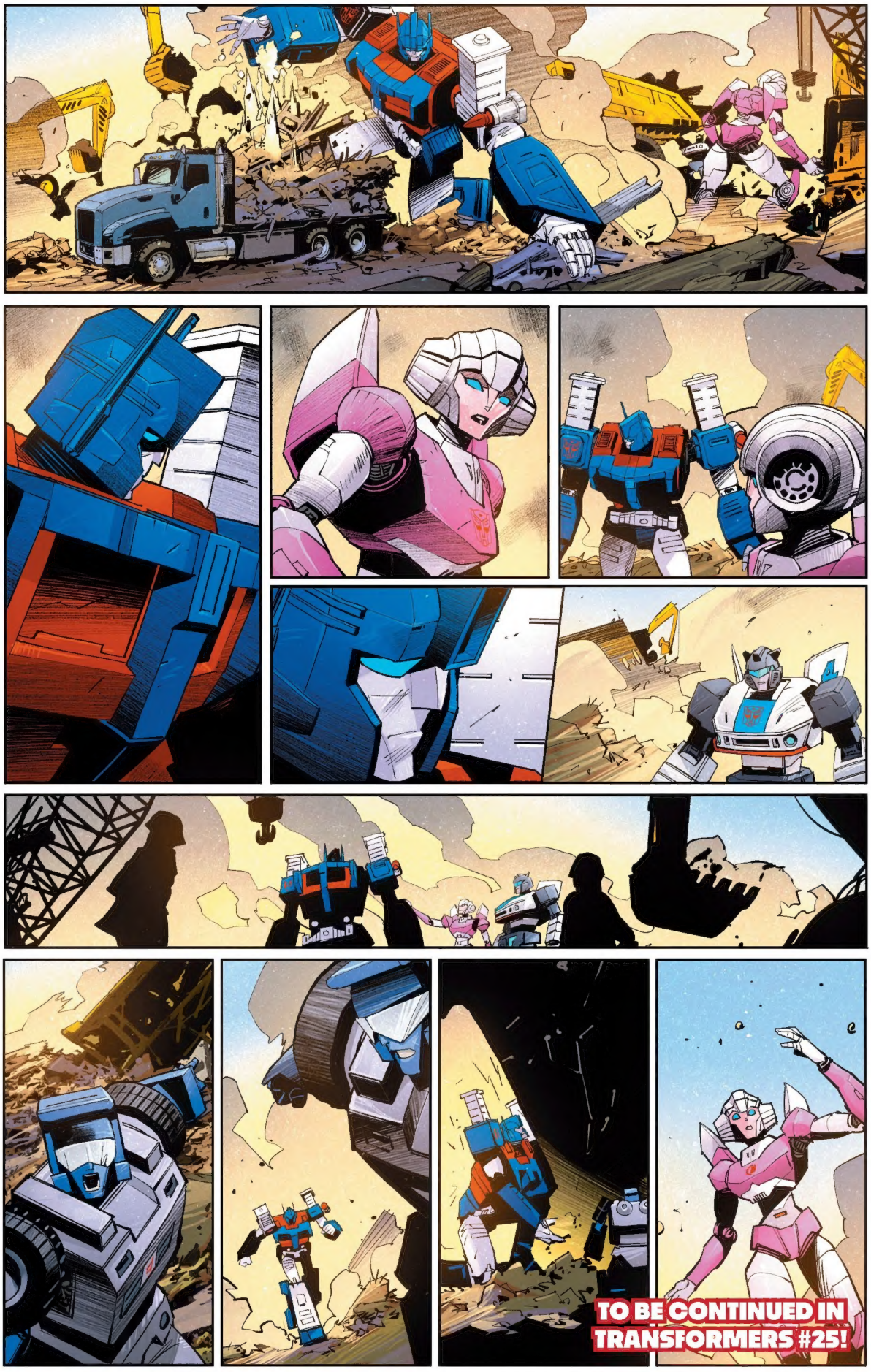
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TRANSFORMERS #25!

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